

Agilent Ref: 10010016-1
United States Application Serial No. 09/772,723

REMARKS

OK to enter
CLS
8/30/04
Formal Matters

Claims 1-44 are pending and claims 15-44 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-14 were examined and rejected.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks made herein.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hunkapiller in view of Zelcny, Brown, Anderson, Shakib and Balaban.

As summarized in the Applicant's previous response, Claims 1 to 14 are directed to methods of fabricating an array of biopolymers by obtaining biopolymers from individual vessels, e.g., wells of a microtitre plate, and depositing the obtained biopolymers on different regions of a substrate. A feature of the subject invention, as described in the specification beginning at page 10 in connection with Figure 4, is that a map of the identity of the individually identified vessels per se, and not just the biopolymers obtained therefrom, is obtained and printed onto the array substrate, in addition to the biopolymers.

Specifically, Claims 1 and 8 both include the limitation of:

"saving in a memory a map of the identity of the vessels to the corresponding regions of the substrate onto which the biopolymers from respective vessels are deposited, in association with a map identifier..."

Since the words of a claim must be read in view of the teaching of the specification, the phrase "the identity of the vessels" means not just the identity of the biopolymer obtained from the vessel, but the identity of the actual vessel holding the biopolymer. The specification provides an illustrative example at page 11, line 6 in the form of Table 1, where each feature is matched with a vessel identifier, which vessel identifier is not just the identity of the biopolymer in the vessel, but the identity of the vessel, e.g., well of a tray, per se. In an